known as Port Trusts. You have not yet got an institution like this—not even a Chamber of Commerce. If you can bring such an organisation into existence, it would be a good thing. You say that the pier is not as useful as it might be, and that you want a tug, a basin, etc., to make it more useful. All this means capital expenditure running to lakhs of rupees and you cannot expect the State to meet this expenditure from its ordinary revenues. We must devise some other means of raising the money and spending it on the port.

Member.—We have no other port worth the name in Travancore and hence we shall have to meet the expenditure from the general revenues of the State. Government have undertaken to contribute 2 lakhs of rupees to the Cochin Harbour, and in the same manner something may be done for this port.

Dewan.—The Cochin Harbour does not come in for discussion in this connection. You do not yet know anything about the Cochin Harbour and you cannot now assume that Cochin Harbour is going to be financed from the general revenues of the State. A policy will have to be laid down in respect of large capital expenditure, the burden of which will have to be borne by subsequent generations also. Generally, it is the Port Trust that incurs all this expenditure, and it is for you to create such an institution, as I have already indicated.

Member.—The trade of Alleppey has not sufficiently advanced. At this stage, it is the duty of the Government to come to the rescue.

Dewan.—The question is whether we are to incur expenditure on capital works to the prejudice of more urgent administrative items.

Member.—What is the amount of capital expenditure required?

Dewan.—That is what I ask you to find out by the creation of an organisation.

Member.—It is the paramount duty of the State to undertake such works.

Dewan.—There I differ. You are a body of intelligent and responsible citizens, and it is for you to create an organisation which will help the Government with advice and a definite programme in a matter like this and ask for a Government contribution, if necessary.

You also refer to the Government contribution to the Alleppey Municipality. This question will come up for consideration again when the next budget is drawn up, and the Legislative Council will have an opportunity of discussing it. I daresay that, if the Legislative Council desires to give increased grants to Municipal Councils from the State revenues, Government will try to comply with that desire. The Town of Trivandrum deserves exceptional treatment, because it is the place where His Highness the Maha Raja resides, and it is also the capital of the State. I am afraid that Government are not in a position to accord the same exceptional treatment to Alleppey and, to my mind, if there is any Municipality which has opportunities of increasing its revenue, it is yours. I would request you to try your best to augment your income. This does not necessarily mean increased taxation only, but the tapping of Municipal resources also. For instance, you can acquire lands and by opening up roads through them and laying them out, sell them as house sites and make a profit and an addition to your recurring revenue. The problem of municipal finance is, as you say, very difficult, but the problem of State finance is even more difficult in these days, and it is for you to put forward constructive suggestions.

105. Some needs of the Vaikam Municipality.

Mr. N. Krishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam) represented the need for satisfactory drainage arrangements for the town of Vaikam. It was only within the last 15 years that the town had become so damp, marshy and unhealthy and that was due to (1) the Valianapuzha bund across the Kari river, (2) the construction of the Ettumanur-Vaikam and the Vazhamana-Kottaram roads without making adequate provision for the free passage of flood water from the intervening portion of the town, and (3) the neglected condition of the *olugu*

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

canal to the west of the temple through which the waste water from the temple premises formerly found its way into the backwater close by.

The Member proposed the restoration of the four *oluqu* canals that surrounded the temple premises and the adjoining portions on all the four sides and the opening of three new channels in the western part of the town to facilitate drainage. These suggestions were not new. When they were made by the Council once before, the Chief Engineer declined to make an investigation for fear of a heavy outlay. The cost would not be heavy, and even if it was high, Government should take up the works. He assured Government that the Municipality was prepared to contribute its mite and requested orders to the P. W. D. to make an investigation into the matter with a view to formulate definite proposals.

Dewan's reply.— As regards the drainage of the town, Government will do the needful as I have already promised another Member.

In regard to the improvement of the channels mentioned by you, I shall have to study the connected papers before saying what can be done.

106. Some needs of the Parur Municipality.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) said that the Parur Municipality existed only in name. There was only a single road in the town, viz., the one leading to Alwaye, which ran a furlong from the court-house and then ended. There was no other road in the town; there were also no drainage arrangements. The Municipality could not boast of an office building, a night-soil depôt or even a public latrine. The balance of municipal funds was only Rs. 6,000. There was no private scavenging system in the town either. This year's budget resulted in a deficit of nearly Rs. 2,000. With this deficit in the succeeding years it would not be possible to attend to the above works, without substantial help from Government. Gravelled roads would quite meet their purposes. In regard to drainage, the first work to be attended to was the improvement of the canal known as Kala *thodu*. Mr. Kukillaya, when he was the President of the Municipality, wished to widen and deepen it and accordingly an estimate was prepared. The Chief Engineer said that a sum of Rs. 6,000 was necessary for restoring the canal. Government said that it was a big scheme and asked the Municipality to enquire whether the owners of the adjoining lands would be prepared to part with the lands free. Many persons were willing to surrender their lands. As a matter of fact, the canal needed nothing more than deepening and this could be done with one-third of the cost originally estimated. There were two other canals also to be improved, one on the eastern side by name Pattini *thodu* and another. These were the three canals for improvement and the total cost to be incurred might not exceed Rs. 3,000. In regard to the Government grant, the Alwaye Municipality which had a balance of Rs. 26,000 was being given a grant of Rs. 300, whereas the grant to the Parur Municipality, the resources of which were considerably slender, was also put at the same figure, viz., Rs. 300. If the works referred to above were carried out at the cost of Government, the Municipality would have no objection to repay the amount in about 10 years.

The Member next spoke about the difficulty arising from the maintenance of a separate currency for Travancore, while the number of Post and Telegraph offices, railway stations, branches of foreign banks, etc., within the country was increasing. The amount, time and trouble involved in the calculation for the conversion of one form of currency into the other was very great in a border taluk like Parur and such conversions invariably resulted in some loss to private parties. The question of prestige ought not to stand in the way of the abolition of the Travancore currency, now that the States of Mysore and Cochin had relinquished that privilege. The Member then made the following suggestions:—

(1) The abolition of the Sirkar rupee which was only an imaginary coin.

(2) The silver *chackram* being made to represent a definite part of the rupee, and the British rupee being treated as equivalent to 28 *chackrams*.

(3) The silver *fanam* being made current coin throughout the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly